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MARCH MEETING, 1898.

THE stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th instant, at three o'clock, P. M., in the Library of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Beacon Street ; the President, CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., in the chair.

After the reading of the record of the February meeting, which was approved, and the list of donors to the Library during the past month, the President announced as the Committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, Messrs. Thornton K. Lothrop, Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., and Solomon Lincoln ; as the Committee to audit the accounts of the Treasurer, Messrs. T. Jefferson Coolidge and James M. Bugbee. He further said that as the Library and Cabinet were now stored, and therefore temporarily inaccessible, the appointment of the Committee to examine the Library and Cabinet would be deferred until the December meeting.

Mr. James Ford Rhodes was appointed to write the memoir of the late Hon. Edward L. Pierce, in place of the Hon. George F. Hoar, to whom it was originally assigned, who had declined on account of his previous appointment to write a memoir of Mr. Pierce for the American Antiquarian Society.

THE PRESIDENT said that he had received a letter from Mr. William R. Thayer declining a re-election to the Council on account of continued ill-health, and he added that the Society would the more readily accept this declination, as it could the sooner avail itself of Mr. Thayer's services for a full term on his complete restoration to health.

The President read a letter which, with the concurrence of the Council, he had addressed to a Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences relating to the occupancy by the Academy of a part of the Society's new building on the Fenway. The proposed arrangement had been accepted by the Academy ; and on motion of Rev. Dr. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, it was now approved and ratified by the Society.

On motion it was

Voted, That the Committee on Nominations for the succeeding year be instructed to consider the expediency of altering Chapter III. of the By-Laws of the Society, so as to increase from five to six the number of members at large of the Council annually elected, and to report on the same at the Annual Meeting.

The First Section having been called on, Mr. WILLIAM S. APPLETON said :—

In 1895, when I presented to the Society the roll of a Century of the Senate of the United States, I said that there were then living seven “ante-bellum” Senators. Since then five of them have died, leaving only two men now living who sat in the Senate before 4 March, 1861. And this seems to me rather a remarkable fact, inasmuch as a man not yet seventy might have entered the Senate in 1859. I also stated that the Fiftieth Congress was the only one in which the roll of members of the Senate was absolutely unchanged from beginning to end. But notwithstanding the enormous increase in the number of Senators in the Fifty-first Congress, the same thing happened in the Fifty-fourth, when the roll of members of the Senate was again unchanged. This would seem to show, though one would hardly expect it, that a seat in the Senate is more highly valued than formerly, since resignations are less frequent.

I desire also to communicate a letter of George Washington to Jonathan Boucher, which I believe has never been printed, and which seems worthy of a place in our Proceedings. It is as follows :—

MOUNT VERNON May 5th, 1772.

DEAR SIR,—As I wrote to you yesterday, I should scarcely have found any thing to have said to day, had not M^r Ballendine’s desire of laying before Gov^r Eden, & the Gentlemen of Annapolis, a Scheme which he has been encouraged to adopt of visiting the Duke of Bridgewaters Works, & other things of the kind in England, with a view of bringing himself better acquainted with the true principles of that sort of knowledge, laid me under a kind of necessity of giving him a line to Gov^r Eden &c^a (not that I would mean to recommend, either the Man, or his Measures further than they deserve) whilst I was doing this, it occurred to me from an advertisement of a desired meeting of the Clergy in Annapolis, that you might possibly be there, & therefore I recom-

mended it to M^r Ballendine to shew you y^e Plan also; as he has met with pretty considerable incouragement on this side y^e Potomack, and has got Letters (as he says) from Lord Dunmore to M^r Brinley, & others, from whom he expects the Insight necessary to enable him to be instrumental in carrying into execution the present attempt of extending the Navigation of Potomack from Tidewater upwards, as far as Fort Cumberland — At the same time that I acknowledge that M^r Ballendine has a natural genius to things of this sort, which if properly encouraged may lend much to publick utility, I cannot help adding, that, his Principles have been loose; whether from a natural depravity, or distressed circumstances, I shal not undertake to determine; how far therefore a Man of this cast is entitled to encouragement every one must judge for themselves, for my part I think, if he applies the Money Subscribd, to the end proposed, the Publick will derive great advantages from it; on this acc^t it is, alone, I wish to see him encouraged, and on this principle it is, I have taken the liberty of mentioning of him to Gov^r Eden, Col^o Sharpe, Maj^r Jenifer and yourself; because, I think the opening of the Potomack wil at once fix the Trade of the Western Country (at least til it may be conduct^d through the Missis-sipi, by New Orleans) through that Channel; and end in amazing advantages to these two Colonies — I shal not trouble you further on this Subject — M^r Ballendine says he must be at Annapolis this Night, I am therefore detaining him — I am very sincerely

D^r Sir

Y^r Most Obed^t Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON.

[Addressed] To The Rever^d M^r Boucher
now in Annapolis

The PRESIDENT alluded to the art and literary treasures in England owned by private individuals. He said he had never been so much impressed with the wealth and variety of these treasures as during his recent visit to that country. He referred, as an instance, to one occasion when, on entering an English country residence, well known but not especially marked, where he had been invited to pass a Sunday, he saw over the hall fireplace, opposite the front door as he came in, what he at first glance took to be a very admirable copy of a large Murillo. The particular picture he had never seen, but the style and manner were unmistakable. It was apparently a copy of a first-class altarpiece, from some cathedral in Spain. Later, however, he learned that, far from being a reproduction, it was an original Murillo, purchased

by a previous master of the house from a no less unmistakable source than Marshal Soult. There could be no question about it. It was a Murillo of the first order, a portion of the French "looting" of Spain during the Napoleonic wars, which had thus found a resting-place in an English country mansion, — one of the last places on earth where French war acquisitions would naturally be looked for.

On another occasion, he said, he had been invited by a friend, Mr. Robert H. Benson, who had married a member of the Holford family, to examine some interesting Americana in Dorchester House. Few Americans, he added, who had ever been in England, could have failed to notice Dorchester House, standing, as it does, on Park Lane, and, with its massive and imposing front, overlooking Hyde Park, — one of the most noticeable and stately of all those noticeable and stately private residences which are as peculiar to London as its *palazzi* to Rome.

In the course of that very hurried visit to Dorchester House, the President went on to say, he had been shown, besides portraits by Velasquez, Rembrandt, and Vandyck, more literary treasures in the way of first editions of single plays of Shakespeare and other rarities, in addition to choice Americana, than could quickly be enumerated. Among these last were two whose value, if measured by their rarity, could hardly be overestimated. The first was a copy of the earliest edition of Smith's "Generall Historie of Virginia," in a state of perfect preservation, and having on the fly-leaf opposite the titlepage, in the handwriting of John Smith himself, covering the whole of it, a letter dedicatory from him to the Cordwainers' or Shoemakers' Society of London, one of its most ancient Gilds. This volume, it appeared, had long ago gone into the Vernon collection through the partial dispersal, for some unexplained cause, of books which had accumulated in the hands of the Cordwainers' Society; thence it came by purchase, as part of the Vernon collection, to the late Robert Holford, who built Dorchester House. The value of this particular book does not seem to have been understood; otherwise the Gild never would have parted with it, or it would have found its way into some public repository. As a literary rarity it is probably unsurpassed among Americana. There may possibly be autographs or scraps of the writing of Captain John Smith in

To

The worshipfull the Mas^r & Vardens
& Societie of the Cordwayners of ~
Worthie Gentleman^y Cittie of London.

Not only in regard of your Courtisie &
Loue, But also of y^e Continuall Use I haue had
of your Labours, & the hope you may make some
Use of mine I salute y^e with this Cronologicall
discourse, whereof y^e may vnderstand with what infi-
nite Difficulties & Dangers these Plantations first began,
with their yearlie proceedings, & the plaine description
& Condition of those Countries; How many of your Com-
panie haue bin Adventurers, whose Names are omitted or not -
nominated in the Alphabet I know not, therefore I intreate -
y^e better to informe me, that I may hereafter imprint y^e -
amongst the Rest, But of this I am sure for want of -
shoes among the Oyster Bankes wee tore our hatts & Clother
& those being worn, wee tied Barkes of trees about our
ffettes to keepe them from being cutt by the shells amongst
which wee must goe or starue, yett how many thousands of
shoes hath bin transported to these plantations, how many
soldiers Mariners & Saylor haue bin & are likely to be -
increased thorowly, what vent your Commodities haue had &
still haue, & how many Shippes & men of all ffaculties haue
bin & are yearlie employed I leave to your owne Judgments,
& yett by reason of ill manadizing, the Returnes haue neither
answered the generall Expectation nor my desire, the Causes
thereof y^e may read at large in this booke for your better
satisfaction, & I pray y^e take it not in ill part that I
present the same to y^e in this manuscript Epistle soe
late, for both it & I my self haue bin soe overtired by

uncourse, whereof yo^r may understand with what infinite Difficulties & Dangers these Plantations first began, with their yearlie proceedings, & the plaine description & Condition of those Countries; How many of your Companie have bin Adventurers, whose Names are omitted or not-nominated in the Alphabet I know not, therefore I intreate yo^r better to informe me, that I may hereafter imprint yo^r amongst the Rest, But of this I am sure for want of shoes among the Oyster Bankes wee tore our hatts & Clothes & those being worn, wee tied Barkes of trees about our ffettes to keepe them from being Cutt by the shells amongst which wee must goe or starve, yett how many thousands of shoes hath bin transported to these plantations, how many Soldiers Mariners & Saylor have bin & are likely to be increased thorowly, what vent your Commodities have had & still have, & how many Shippes & men of all ffaculties have bin & are yearlie employed I leave to your owne Judgments, & yett by reason of ill manadging, the Returns have neither answered the generall Expectation nor my desire, the Causes thereof yo^r may read at large in this Booke for your better Satisfaction, & I pray yo^r take it not in ill part that I present the same to yo^r in this manuscript Epistle soe late, for both it & I my self have bin soe overtired by attendances that ~~was~~ this work of mine doth seeme to be superannuated before its Birth, notwithstanding Lett me intreat yo^r to give it Lodging in your Hall free to be perused for ever, in memorie of your Noblenesse towards mee, & my Love to God, my Countrey, your Societie, & those Plantations, Ever resting

Yours to life

John Smith.

existence. If there were, however, the President said, he was unacquainted with their whereabouts, nor did he believe any such were to be found in America. It would not be possible to fix a money value upon this particular copy of Smith's *Generall Historie*. It was absolutely unique; and, if it were offered for sale, the price it would bring would be measured simply by the means at the disposal of public institutions trying to outbid wealthy private collectors.

So much had he been impressed with the rarity of the copy, and the beauty of Smith's chirography, as well as the interest which attaches to it, that he had taken the liberty of asking Captain G. L. Holford, the present owner of Dorchester House, to let him have the presentation letter photographed. After some demur, for fear lest copies of the photograph might get abroad, and an improper use be made of them in connection with other copies of the same edition of the book, this request had been very courteously complied with, and he now, therefore, had the pleasure of presenting to the Society a full photographic reproduction, through the best modern methods, of the letter in question, which the Holford family had most kindly transmitted to him.

He went on to say that, on the same occasion, an additional book had been shown him, which also was probably in its way unequalled among Americana. It was a small quarto volume, of the size and shape usual in the early half of the seventeenth century, containing under one cover no less than twenty-two very rare publications relating to America, dating from 1587 to 1622. They had evidently been collected, and bound together, at the time of their publication. A list of these also had, at his request, been furnished him, which he now wished to lay before the Society, as it was always desirable the whereabouts of the few original copies in existence of these rare books should be known. Dr. Green had, at his request, examined the list, and ascertained that most of the books in it were already included in various American collections, more especially the Lenox and the John Carter Brown collections. Others were in the library of this Society, and some at Harvard College. The whereabouts in America of duplicate copies of a few of those contained in this volume could not be ascertained, though probably all, or nearly all, of them would be found somewhere. All of them were in the

British Museum. The titles of these publications are as follows, and he asked to have the list included for future reference in the Society's printed Proceedings.¹

I. A briefe & true Relation of ye discovery of ye North pt. of Virginia, by Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold. Capt. Barth, Gilbert, & other associates. Written by T. Brereton, one of ye voyage. With a treatise of Edw. Hayes concerning ye planting in those parts, & finding a passage to ye South Sea & China. 1602.

II. A true Relation of ye most prosperous voyage this present yeare 1605 by Capt. Georg Waymouth in ye discovery of ye land of Virginia. By James Rosier, one of ye voyage. 1605.

III. A true Relation of such occurrences, & accidents of note, as have happened in Virginia since ye first planting of that Colony, now resident in ye South pt thereof, till ye last retourne from thence written by Capt. Smith. 1608.

IV. Nova Britania, offering most excellent fruites by planting in Virginia. 1609.

V. A good Speed to Virginia. Being a Sermon upon Josh. cap. 17. ver. 14. 1609.

VI. A true, & sincere declaration of ye purpose, and ends of ye Plantation begun in Virginia: of ye degrees it hath received, & meanes by w'ch it hath bin advanced. 1610.

VII. A true Declaration of ye estate of ye Colony in Virginia with a confutation of such scandalous reports, as have tended to ye disgrace of so worthy an Enterprise. 1610.

VIII. A Relation of ye R't honorable S. de la Warre L. Governour, & Captaine generall of ye Colony planted in Virg. 1611.

IX. The New lyfe of Virginia, declaring ye former successe, & present estate of that Plantation; being the second part of Nova Britania. 1612.

X. A Mapp of Virginia, with a description of the Country the Commodities, people, government, & Religion. Written by Capt. Smith. 1612.

XI. The proceedings of ye English Colony in Virgin. since their first beginning from England in the yeare 1606 till this present 1612. 1612.

XII. Good news from Virginia, sent by Alexander Whitaker, Minister of Henrico in Virg. with a praeface of Mr. Wittm Crashaw. 1613.

XIII. A true discourse of ye present estate of Virgin. & ye successe of ye affaires there till ye 8 of June 1614. with a Relation of

¹ The list is here printed as it was received from England; but it will be noticed that many of the titles have been abbreviated. There is no difficulty, however, in identifying the several works enumerated. — Eds.

ye Townes & Forts, ye assurance of ye Cōuntry, & ye peace concluded with ye Indians: The christening of Powhatans daughter, & her marriage with an English-man, etc. written by Ralph Hamor. 1615.

XIV. A Description of New England; or ye observations, & discoveries of Capt. John Smith in ye North of America an. 1614. & 1615. with a prooffe of ye present benefit this cōuntry afford's. 1616.

XV. A Declaration of ye estate, & Colony, & affair's of Virgin. with ye Names of th' Adventurours & Sūmes adventured in that Action. 1620.

BARMUDAS.

XVI. A Discovery of Barmudas, otherwise called ye Isle of Divelles: by S'r Tho: Gates, S'r George Sūmers, & Capt. Newport. written by Sil. Jordan. 1620.

XVII. A plaine Description of ye Barmudas, now called Sūmer Islands: with the maner of their discovery añ. 1609. by ye shipwrack, & admirable deliverance of S'r Tho. Gates, S'r Georg Sūmers, & Capt. Newport. wherein is declared ye cōmodities of the coutry, being rich, pleasant, healthfull. etc. 1613.

XVIII. A Letter sent into England from ye Summer Islands by Mr. Lewes Hughes, Preacher of Gods word there. Dated Decemb. 21, 1614. 1615.

XIX. A Plaine, & true Relation of ye goodness of God towards ye Sumer Islands: written by way of exhortation to stirre up ye people there to praise God by Lewes Hughes Minister of God's word. 1621.

XX. A New-yeares-gift to Virginia; being a sermon preached by Mr. W. Crashaw, Febr 21. 1609. at the departure of ye S. de la Warre unto Virgin. wherein ye lawfulness of ye Action is maintained, & the necessity thereof demonstrated. 1610.

NEW-FOUND-LAND.

XXI. A true Report of ye late Western discoveries & possession taken in ye right of ye Crowne of England of ye New-found Lands, by ye valiant, & worthy S'r Humphrey Gilbert: the lawfull title thereunto, the manifold cōmodities lykely to grow thereby. etc. 1583.

XXII. A briefe discourse of ye New-found-Land, with ye situation, temperature, & comodities thereof, inciting our Nation to goe foreward in that hopefull plantation begun. Printed at Edinburg. 1620.

Mr. CHARLES C. SMITH then said:—

In the course of the discursive remarks near the close of our last meeting, one of our associates was understood to

express a fear lest the manuscript treasures of the Society would be exhausted at no distant period, and to suggest the desirability of securing some important collections of papers mentioned by him. In the latter remark we shall all concur: of the former I shall have something to say presently. The collection, preservation, and publication of historical manuscripts were among the primary objects of our founders; and by the original plan of Dr. Belknap, drawn up in 1790, each member was required, on his election, to "engage to use his utmost endeavours to collect and communicate to the Society" such manuscripts as might elucidate the "political history of America from the earliest times to the present day." In accordance with that purpose, our predecessors have collected and given to the Society about a thousand volumes of manuscripts of great and permanent value. Of these about one third is made up of large volumes, each containing several hundred letters or other papers; the others are smaller volumes, mainly of a similar character; and besides these there are great masses of unbound letters and manuscripts. Our founders and their successors, and other persons not members of the Society, have justly felt that in no other place would such papers be more securely preserved or more cautiously and judiciously used. All these papers and letters have been gifts to the Society. In only two instances, almost too unimportant in amount to be mentioned, has the Society, so far as I know, bought any manuscripts. The Society has never had any funds available for such a purpose, and it is to be feared we shall not have them in the immediate future. In scarcely any other way, however, can the objects of the Society be better promoted than by the gift or deposit of historical manuscripts for safe keeping and publication at some future period, when they can be properly made public. Three or four generations of our predecessors have recognized this; not a few who are now on our roll of living members have followed their example; and we may feel sure that those who shall come after us will be inspired by similar motives.

And now what has been done with these precious gifts, and what still remains to be done? The first volume of Collections bears the date of 1792, one year after the organization of the Society: the sixtieth volume is now in the hands of the printers; and it may be worth remarking that in that first

volume are numerous papers relating to the siege of Louisbourg, and that the new volume is made up of papers relating to the same matter, and acquired at the same time, which it was not thought proper to print then, but which are now of great interest and ought no longer to remain unprinted. The early volumes were of a miscellaneous character, containing important letters and documents then for the first time made public; reprints of rare books and tracts; original topographical and historical accounts of Massachusetts towns; memoirs of deceased members; and other original papers of one kind or another. Most of the volumes had very few foot-notes. It was not until Mr. Deane printed Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation, in 1856, that any volume contained a considerable number of illustrative notes. Since that time most of the volumes have been more or less fully annotated, and have been of a more nearly homogeneous character than the earlier volumes.

Not long after the publication of Bradford's History the Society began the issue of a new series of volumes, not intended to interfere with the printing of the Collections, which were to consist in future of "original manuscripts of permanent interest, either from its own archives or from other sources." The new series of volumes was to "contain an account of the stated and special meetings, the reports of committees, correspondence, announcements of donations, and papers of a less elaborate character, prepared by members, and read before the Society." The plan which was thus described by the first committee for publishing the Proceedings, George Livermore and Chandler Robbins, has already resulted in the publication on those lines of thirty-one volumes, besides the index volume, and the thirty-second volume is now going through the press.

These volumes, more than ninety in all, have by no means exhausted our manuscript riches. Some years before his death, Mr. Deane, who was more familiar with the manuscripts of the Society and with its traditions than any other person, said in conversation that, at the rate at which the Society was then printing, its own manuscripts would not be exhausted in fifty years, to say nothing of papers not absolutely under our control. Since that time the publishing work of the Society has been carried on with considerably greater activity than it was then; but it is not less true to-day that many years must

elapse before there will be even the slightest sign of a dearth of materials. There are great masses of papers which deserve to be printed, and some of which the Society is under a moral obligation to print whenever it is in a position to do so. There are others which should be postponed to a much later period.

But the Society has not relied wholly on gifts. It has always gladly welcomed the loan of unpublished letters and diaries from any quarter, with the understanding that it was at liberty to print such portions as might seem desirable; and many of our most important volumes have been made up wholly or in part of selections from private collections, thus placed at our service, which are still unexhausted. We may confidently expect that the owners of other papers of a similar character will avail themselves of the opportunities for publication which the Collections and Proceedings of this Society afford, and will from time to time lend to us papers of historical value which they may not care to part with permanently.

By the By-Laws adopted in 1853, it was provided that for the orderly management of the meetings "the Society shall be divided into three sections, as nearly equal in numbers as may be, each of which sections, in regular sequence, shall be notified by the Recording Secretary that the Society, at the next following meeting, will desire to receive from it such communications" as have "relation to the objects of the Society." This has ever since been a fundamental rule. At each meeting the members of the designated section have the priority of right to make such communications, oral or written, in harmony with the purposes of the Society, as they shall think proper. No other invitation to do this is needed than the formal notification of the Recording Secretary, that the Society will be ready to receive communications from the designated section. When the members of that section have made such communications as they are prepared to offer, or if no member in it wishes to present any paper or oral communication, then the meeting is just as freely open to members of both the other sections. It is only in such cases as the appointment of one of our number to prepare the memoir of a deceased associate, where the By-Laws prescribe the selection by the Council of a member to perform that duty, or the

appointment of the successive publishing committees, the members of which, unless otherwise ordered, are to be nominated by the chair, that any member is formally requested or appointed to do anything. In the case of the publishing committees it has uniformly been the custom to appoint such members as were specially interested in the papers proposed to be printed, from a previous knowledge of their contents, or who were specially acquainted with the period to which they related. The examining and nominating committees, which are annually appointed, are selected in the same manner. It would scarcely have been necessary to make this statement but for an incidental remark, based on a misapprehension, dropped at our last meeting, which ought to be corrected. It may be added that more than ninety members have served on the various publishing committees, or about one quarter part of all the names borne on our rolls from the organization of the Society to this day. Not a few of our members who have been on no committee have enriched our printed Proceedings by important and instructive communications.

On another matter connected with the publications of the Society a few words may be added. It has sometimes been suggested that they have dealt too much with the colonial and provincial periods, and that it is desirable now to enlarge our scope and come down to more recent times. In answer to this it may be said that the Society has never attempted to deal with contemporary history: it has been felt that a considerable time must elapse before private letters and diaries can be printed with justice to their writers or to the persons mentioned in them, and that some historical questions cannot even now be discussed without producing an undesirable warmth. From the necessarily miscellaneous character of the papers printed in the Proceedings, it is not easy to classify their contents. Besides the memoirs of our deceased associates, two hundred or more in number, not one of whom died before the opening of this century, there have been original communications covering the whole range of historical inquiry from the half-fabulous voyages of the Northmen and the Zeno brothers down to McClellan's peninsular campaign. The letters and other documents have been for the most part illustrative of the colonial, provincial, and revolutionary periods, with probably some predominance of the latter period; and there have

been a few letters or documents of our own time. When we come to the Collections, it has been found by a rough calculation that about one half of the volumes contain material relating to the seventeenth century, and the other half material relating to the eighteenth century. To the former belong Bradford's History and Hubbard's History, which together fill three volumes of the Collections. No similar treasures remain unprinted ; and while there is much still in our archives relating to the colonial period, the great mass of our unpublished material belongs to a later period. For the present at least it is the history of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century which will be most largely illustrated in our Collections. As the years recede and a new century opens, the Society may profitably occupy a wider field, and deal with matters not yet ripe for treatment by such an organization as ours. If we and those who come after us are faithful to the traditions which we have inherited, the Society's manuscripts will never be exhausted. The stream of history never runs dry, and as the successive generations come and go, new materials are brought down by its current.

ALBERT B. HART, Ph.D., gave some account of the letters and other manuscripts belonging to the late Hon. Salmon P. Chase, now in his possession. Among them is an unfinished sketch of a part of the life of Mr. Chase written by our late associate the Hon. Edward L. Pierce, in 1854 or 1855, when Mr. Pierce was a student in Mr. Chase's law office. Another paper is a subscription for shares in the "Chicago Block Company," which is chiefly of interest for the large number of signatures of men prominent in public life at the time it was drawn up, the spring of 1859, the real purpose of the subscription being to aid Dr. Bailey, the publisher of the "National Era," who died shortly afterward. Two of the original certificates of shares were presented to the Cabinet by Mr. Hart. Among the papers of Mr. Chase are also great numbers of autograph letters from prominent persons ; among others, John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Parker, William H. Seward, William P. Fessenden, and the late Charles Francis Adams.

On motion of Mr. A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, it was voted that the Council be requested to consider and report at the Annual

Meeting as to the possibility of increasing the manuscript treasures of the Society.

John C. Gray, LL.D., of Boston, was elected a Resident Member.

Remarks were also made during the meeting by the PRESIDENT and by Messrs. SOLOMON LINCOLN and JAMES F. RHODES.